

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Iwano et al. (US 5,121,454). Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwano et al. (US 5,131,454). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). It is submitted that Iwano fails to teach each and every element as set forth in claims 1 and 11 for at least the reasons described below.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the substrate housing assembly comprises ... a further housing ... and a biasing arrangement carried by one of the outer housing and the further housing cooperating with a biasing arrangement load means arranged on the other of the further housing and the outer housing to create an application force to form the optical interface".

In contrast, Iwano merely discloses an optical connector comprising a first connector 30 having a first housing 33, and a second connector 31 having a second housing 34 and a third housing 36. The second housing section 34 and the third housing section 36 are engaged to with other by first projection portion 37 and first elastic engage lever 38 (see col. 13, lines 7-14, and Figs. 3(a)-3(j)). Iwano teaches that "[b]efore engagement of these two connectors 30 and 31, the

third housing 36 is engaged with the second housing 34 by the first engage means 37 and 38 so as not to be slid toward the right direction" (see col. 13, lines 53-57, and Figs. 3(a) - 3(c)). The first projection portion 37 and the first elastic engage lever 38 cooperate with each other **before** the first connector 31 and the second connector 32 are engaged together (see Fig. 3(a)). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Iwano that the portions 37, 38 cooperate to create an application force to form an optical interface. Instead, Iwano teaches that during the engagement steps shown in Figs. 3(a)-3(c), the portions 37, 38 remain engaged with each other as the first optical connector elements 32 and the second optical connector elements 35 are coupled to each other (see col. 14, lines 18-36, and Fig. 3(c)). Thus, Iwano fails to teach an optical connector system comprising a substrate housing assembly having an outer housing, a further housing, and a biasing arrangement cooperating with a biasing arrangement load means to create an application force to form the optical interface, as claimed in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 2-10 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

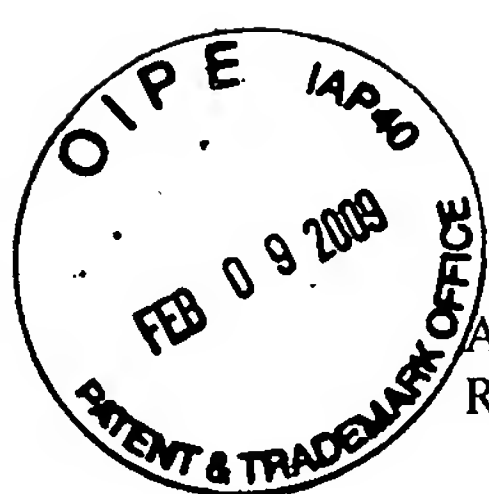
Applicant has amended claim 11 to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the substrate housing assembly comprises ... a biasing arrangement ... carried by one of the outer housing and the

further housing cooperating with a biasing arrangement load means arranged on the other of the further housing and the outer housing to create an application force to form the optical interface".

Similar to the arguments presented above with respect to claim 1, Iwano teaches that the first projection portion 37 and the first elastic engage lever 38 cooperate with each other **before** the first connector 31 and the second connector 32 are engaged together (see Fig. 3(a)). There is no disclosure or suggestion in Iwano that the portions 37, 38 cooperate to create an application force to form an optical interface. Instead, Iwano teaches that during the engagement steps shown in Figs. 3(a)-3(c), the portions 37, 38 remain engaged with each other as the first optical connector elements 32 and the second optical connector elements 35 are coupled to each other (see col. 14, lines 18-36, and Fig. 3(c)). Thus, Iwano fails to teach a substrate housing assembly having a biasing arrangement cooperating with a biasing arrangement load means to create an application force to form the optical interface. The features of claim 11 are not disclosed or suggested in the art of record. Therefore, claim 11 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claim 12 contains allowable subject matter, the claim should at least be allowable due to dependence from allowable claim 11. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

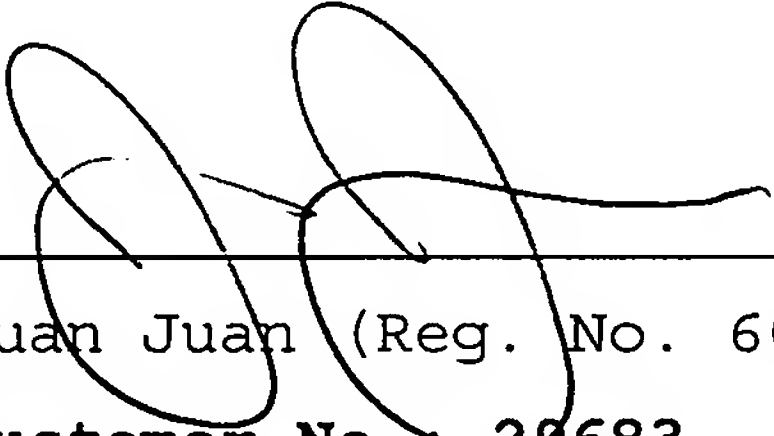
Claims 13 and 14 have been added above to further claim the features recited therein.



Appl. No.: 10/588,014
Reply to Office Action of: 11/13/2008

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge deposit account 50-1924 for any fee deficiency. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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2/4/2009

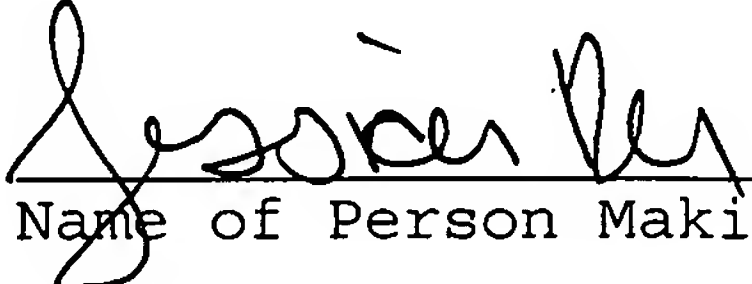
Date

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